

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERIDIAN TEACHER NAMED IDAHO HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

NEW YORK, NY (JULY 6, 2006) - Jock Summers, a 4th grade teacher at Mary McPherson Elementary School in Meridian, Idaho, has been named Idaho History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and *Preserve America*.

Inaugurated in 2004, the History Teacher of the Year Award is designed to promote and celebrate the teaching of American history in classrooms across the United States. It honors one exceptional K-12 teacher of American history from each state and U.S. territory. The selection of the state winner is based upon several criteria, including: experience in teaching American history for at least three years; a deep career commitment to teaching American history; evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom; and close attention to documents, artifacts, historic sites, and the other primary materials of history.

Summers, a Meridian resident, will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and will be in the running for the National History Teacher of the Year award to be selected this fall. Mary McPherson Elementary School's library will receive a core archive of history books and materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Summers has been teaching for 16 years and has been at Mary McPherson Elementary School for 8 years. "This award gives us the chance to recognize great history teachers across the country," said Lesley Herrmann, Executive Director of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. "It puts exceptional educators front and center."

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History promotes the study and love of American history. Increasingly national and international in scope, the Institute targets audiences ranging from students to scholars to the general public. It creates history-centered schools and academic research centers, organizes seminars and enrichment programs for educators, partners with school districts to implement Teaching American History grants, produces print and electronic publications and traveling exhibitions, and sponsors lectures by eminent historians. The Institute also funds awards including the Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and George Washington Book Prizes and offers fellowships for scholars to work in history archives, including the Gilder Lehrman Collection. For more information, visit www.gilderlehrman.org

Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages greater shared knowledge about the nation's past and increased local participation in preserving the nation's cultural and natural heritage assets. For more information, see www.preserveamerica.gov.

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